

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air political propaganda in documentary form only days before the election is a clear example that some of our corporately owed communications companies have abrogated their responsibilities to the citizens of our nation by not acting responsibly.

Having worked on the RFP for the Cable Standards for the City of St. Louis more than two decades ago one of the main questions for us at the time was- what is in the best interest of the public? To my way of thinking it is in keeping the public informed and in ensuring that companies who own stations don't abuse their privilege and power.

I was taught that the public airwaves are owned by the people of this nation and more specifically by the local persons within the "reach" of the airwaves. I was instructed that all the people, not only the rich, the powerful and the politically connected, had a right to receive programs that presented what was best in the public interest. I believe that it is the responsibility of the FCC to put an immediate stop to Sinclair's use of its station as a vehicle for propaganda for any presidential candidate particularly the airing of the documentary "Stolen Honor."

Sinclair is obligated by law to serve the public interest and if they conclude that they can do as they please regardless of the public good then their license should be revoked.

When major corporations control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. This was the issue that was well understood before deregulation. The continued eroding of media ownership rules weakens the average citizens ability to receive fair and balanced perspectives. Sinclair should be censured for what they are doing as a first step in the FCC's job at restoring trust in the media.

Finally, the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you in advance for your attention to this matter of local, regional and national importance.

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